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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,546	03/01/2004	Marko Areh	2001P15160WOUS	3281
46726	7590	06/07/2006	EXAMINER	
JOHN T. WINBURN 100 BOSCH BOULEVARD NEW BERN, NC 28562			LEE, KYUNG S	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2832	

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/791,546	AREH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Richard K. Lee	2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 6-8 and 12-14 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5,9-11,15 and 16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 October 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "drive unit" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the

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applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 15 recite "a second wall thickness being less than the first wall thickness" is indefinite. The difference would be met by manufacturing tolerance. Would having a very small thickness difference, such as 0.000001 inches, between the thicknesses achieve the claimed results? Such differences would be very common in manufacturing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-4, 9-10 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Tucci US Pat. 6,495,780.

Tucci teaches an electrical kitchen appliance, comprising:

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an electrical switching device;

a housing having an outer wall 10 with a first thickness

(Please see the attached sheet showing the thickness I in fig. 1.);

the outer wall forms a button (by 16) for actuating a switch;

the button defined by a region of the outer wall having a second wall thickness (Thickness II, also in fig. 1.) being less than the first wall thickness; and

a drive unit disposed in the housing.

Tucci discloses the use of a waterproof sealed case for a surface mounted component. Such may include various components, including kitchen appliances. Please see the abstract.

Regarding claim 2, recess parts are formed on the outer wall to define the button region.

Regarding claims 3 and 9, claimed region had two first strips formed substantially parallel to one another between which runs a second strip (portion below 16 in fig. 1).

Regarding the thickness, please refer to the indefiniteness above.

Regarding claims 4 and 10, circularly enlarged point supports the actuator 16.

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5. Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tucci in view of Botz et al. US Pat. 6,255,610).

Tucci teaches the claimed invention except for the circularly enlarged point having gripping pimples. Botz teaches a circularly enlarged point (from side view on cover) having gripping pimples 12 for the purpose of providing a better gripping surface for the user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the circularly enlarged point of Tucci with the gripping pimples of Botz, since the gripping pimples of Botz would provide the enlarged point of Tucci with a better gripping surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6-8 and 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6 and 12 recite an outer wall having "two third strips running substantially parallel" ... where "each of the third strips respectively adjoining one of said two first strips substantially at a right angle." Claimed structure in combination with the claimed limitations of the base claim are

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neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Claims 7-8 and 13-14 depend on claim 6 and 12, respectively.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard K. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1994. The examiner can normally be reached on M and W-F 6:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Richard K. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2832



5/30/06